



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,628	02/19/2002	Richard W. Morris	N2000-017	2866

7590 06/30/2003

Joseph C. Spadacene
Westinghouse Electric Company LLC
4350 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146

EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,628

Applicant(s)

MORRIS, RICHARD W.

Examiner

Ann M McCarney

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 16 April 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dale et al. (US 4,618,198).

Regarding claim 1, Dale et al. disclose an electrical connector (Fig. 4) that detachably connects a cable CL having a metal sheath 26 enclosing a first conductor 21, 22, to a second conductor, 23, 24 (Fig. 11) comprising:

a first elongated, tubular, metal housing section 34, 89 having a longitudinal portion extending from a first end to a second end with a diameter at the first end that is sized to closely receive and prepared to be metallurgically joined to the sheath of the cable carrying the first conductor;

a second elongated, tubular, metal housing section 42 having a first end which is sized to mate with the second end of the first housing section, the second end of the first housing section and the first end of the second housing section having abutting surfaces (at 81) that are prepared to be mechanically or metallurgically joined, and said second housing section having a second end 43 that is formed to be detachably connected to a mating second electrical connector; and

an elongated, electrically conductive pin 31, supported by the second housing section, having a first end designed to electrically connect with the first conductor and a second end that is formed to electrically interface with a complimentary electrically conductive pin on a second electrical connector that is electrically connected to the second conductor.

Regarding claim 2, Dale et al. disclose the first end of the first housing section being constructed to be brazed to the sheath of the cable.

Regarding claim 3, Dale et al. disclose a mating lap joint (at 81) being formed between the second end of the first housing section and the first end of the second housing section.

Regarding claim 4, Dale et al. disclose the mating lap joint being constructed to be brazed.

Regarding claim 6, Dale et al. disclose the first electrical conductor comprising two electrical leads that are insulated from one another and the electrically conductive pin comprises two parallel, elongated terminals with the first end of each terminal is constructed to connect a corresponding one of said electrical leads and the second end of each terminal is constructed to mate with a corresponding terminal on the second electrical connector.

Regarding claim 7, Dale et al. disclose an opening in the sheath of the cable through which the first conductor extends being filled with epoxy (Column 3, Lines 45-64).

Regarding claim 11, Dale et al. disclose the electrically conductive pin supported by the second end of the second housing section.

Regarding claim 12, Reinhart et al. disclose the first end of the electrically conductive pin being a crimp bucket.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, the method of use is inherent to the device and is rejected on the same grounds as the claims above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dale et al. in view of Linden et al. (US 5,785,544).

Reinhart et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed, but do not disclose the connection between the first and second housing sections being a threaded joint. Linden et al. teach a threaded joint for joining two metal housing sections together to establish a hermetic seal. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Reinhart et al. with a threaded joint to eliminate the extra brazing or soldering step.

Claims 8-10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dale et al. in view of Reinhart et al. (US 4,691,080)

Regarding claims 8 and 15, Dale et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed, but do not disclose an electrical insulator spacer positioned between the sheath and the elongated, electrically conductive pin. Reinhart et al. teach an insulator spacer 18. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an insulator spacer in the connector of Dale et al. to guide the conductors while preventing electrical contact between the conductors.

Regarding claim 9, Reinhart et al. disclose the electrical insulator includes a passage 66 through which the first conductor can be threaded.

Regarding claim 10, Reinhart et al. disclose the electrical insulator being a ceramic plate (Column 2, Line 64).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2833

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AMM

June 24, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RL' or 'R. L.', written in a cursive style.

RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER